

Mae Brussell's

First Issue

# CONSPIRACY NEWSLETTER

## Why Is the Senate Watergate Committee Functioning As Part of the Cover-Up?

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#### Introduction:

July 21, 1973 — Paul Krassner and I decided to publish *Conspiracy Newsletter* a year ago.

The arrests at the Watergate Hotel, and the magnitude of the events taking place, occupied my year.

Nine years research into past government conspiracies and previous election manipulations was the background for the newsletter.

The Watergate witnesses, and evidence about the illegal entry into the Democratic National Headquarters, was a continuation of earlier investigative work.

One year later, with almost 700 subject files assembled on the Watergate espionage operation, *Conspiracy Newsletter* is finally getting started.

For those who subscribed a year ago and waited, thank you.

Many people asked me why, after many years of research, my first published article was in *The Realist*?

The answer is simple.

I respect Paul Krassner. For ten years, I have subscribed to *The Realist*.

Only the alternative press has been faithful to the freedoms we deserve.

*The Realist*

At a time when *Deep Throat* is making \$50-million, indicating a desire and taste of free adults to choose their own entertainment, the Supreme Court permits others to dictate what we shall see or read.

Nixon's Supreme Court is a worse danger to our liberties than sexual pleasures.

Freedom of the press, freedom to live and to love is what the struggle is all about. There are hundreds of conspiracies taking place. They are all ordered from the White House.

Political assassinations, the killing of Presidential candidates, is for the purpose of denying our maximum freedoms.

### I. Knowledge Omitted from the Campus

The arrests at the Watergate Hotel in Washington D.C. took most Americans by surprise. We had been educated with a continuous series of denials that conspiracies at the White House level could exist.

The news media, a major source of information, treat high level conspiracies with platitudes, indifference, and unimaginative cover stories to conceal facts. Propaganda is an important weapon of the fascist state. TV and the media are filled with clandestine agents, some posing as liberal writers, whose purpose is to break the credibility of researchers or discredit evidence that would confirm conspiracies.<sup>1</sup>

Colleges and academic institutions have no courses on agent provocateurs or how to recognize espionage operations.<sup>2</sup> When the accurate history of the 1960's and 70's is written about violence in the U.S., facts will reveal that government provocateurs created most of the violence. A series of our own Reichstag fires was the justification later for a domestic intelligence unit to deny our liberties guaranteed by the Constitution.<sup>3</sup>

There is no information available on ways to protect society from sabotage. The Watergate Affair exposes how investigators and the Dept. of Justice work with their espionage agents in acts which amount to treason.<sup>4</sup> Top lawyers of the nation, instead of obeying the law, worked in collusion with corporate interests for purposes of power and profits.<sup>5</sup> G. Gordon Liddy, counsel for the White House and CREEP, helped create the famous April 7, 1972 law which concealed donations and illegal corporate financing.

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## CHAPTER ONE

### ©onspiracy Inc:

## Anatomy of a Discipline

The world of conspiracy research is fraught with bizarre paradoxes. Often the most thorough research is done by complete amateurs (groundbreaking journalist Mae Brussell being the prime example), while the most amateurish research is done by well-trained professionals (i.e., almost any *Los Angeles Times* article with the word “conspiracy” in the title).

To see what I mean, I suggest perusing Rich Cohen’s article “Welcome to the Conspiracy,” featured in the May 2004 issue of *Vanity Fair*. The article purports to be an objective critique of conspiracy research. However, the actual purpose of Cohen’s article is not to offer genuine criticism of conspiracy research at all (such a task would be welcome). Instead, his ultimate purpose is to leave in the reader’s mind the impression that conspiracy researchers are a) anti-Semites, b) right-wing fundamentalists, and c) always men. Just a quick glance at the masthead of almost any conspiracy journal would render that last proposition laughable. In fact, one of the great progenitors of this type of research was none other than Mae Brussell, a liberal Jewish woman, the daughter of one of the most prominent Rabbis in Los Angeles history, Edgar Magnin.

Brussell’s skills as a political researcher were beyond reproach. Brussell wrote about Watergate before the *Washington Post*. <sup>1</sup>I refer interested researchers to the compilation *The Mae Brussell Reader*, released by Prevailing Winds in 1991, if you wish to judge Brussell’s reportage for yourself. As famed investigative journalist Seymour Hersh once said of Brussell, “She’s crazy, but she’s right.” Alas, mainstream publications are very often neither crazy nor right.

The job of most professional journalists consists of rewriting news releases sent to them by PR Newswire or Business Wire and very little else. Sometimes, I suspect, they don’t even do that much. I have a friend who works at Business Wire; he often sees news releases he himself has edited reprinted word for word in a mainstream newspaper. With such a lackadaisical atmosphere pervading the halls of newsrooms across the country, it’s not surprising that amateurs are forced to fill the void with articles in conspiracy ‘zines, postings on the internet, hit-and-run phone calls on radio talk shows, and graffiti on alley walls.

Loose in the conspiracy world is an anarchy of information, to which there’s an upside and a downside. Most conspiracy magazines are a synthesis of both. The upside and the downside appear side by side without even a wink or a nudge from the editors to explain the difference. On one page you might find a meticulously researched, thoroughly footnoted article examining the origins of the Gulf War Disease by Dr. Alan Cantwell, and on the next you’ll find someone

the Gulf War Disease by Dr. Alan Cartwell, and on the next you find someone named “Anonymous” ranting about the cabal of homosexual Communists attempting to take over the world. Few people can oscillate between these two categories and remain sane, though why this should be the case perplexes me. You don’t need a degree in advanced physics to tell the difference between legitimate research and illegitimate research (or, more often than not, no research at all). Legitimate conspiracy research (Noam Chomsky, eager to remain in the good graces of academia, prefers to call it “Institutional Analysis”) is footnoted and sourced, and pure speculation is clearly labeled as such. Illegitimate conspiracy research is very often based on little more than hearsay or the wild imagination of the researcher himself. That doesn’t mean such goofiness doesn’t have a place in the universe. Some of it is purely insane, some of it is clever disinformation manufactured by one or more intelligence agencies to muddy the waters, some of it is misinformation from sincere but sadly misled researchers, some of it is outright satire, but none of it is boring.

Since Rich Cohen was unable to offer an objective critique of the emerging discipline known as “conspiracy research,” I thought it might be beneficial to correct Cohen’s mistake and do his job for him. After all, in times such as these when conspiracies are conducted right in front of our faces, and murderous thugs wander the halls of the White House cooking up imaginary threats to keep us frightened, it’s important not to waste our time conjuring up plots and counter-plots that don’t even exist. Let’s leave such fear mongering to the professionals, shall we?

What follows is an overview of the more obscure conspiracy theories floating around out there. If possible, I’ll attempt to identify which of the five categories the theory falls into (i.e., Insanity, Disinformation, Misinformation, Satire or Legitimate Research). However, I’d like to point out that in even the most suspect conspiracy theory there’s often a kernel of truth. As political researcher Dave Emory likes to say, “Even a blind pig can find an acorn once in awhile.” I’ll try to uncover that acorn in each of the following examples.

## **Stephen King Shot John Lennon**

During the summer of 1998 various people kept coming up to me and saying, “Have you seen this weird guy who drives around Torrance in a van that has a sign on it that says STEPHEN KING SHOT JOHN LENNON?” No, I would reply, I’ve never seen it. In fact, I appeared to be the only one in Torrance who never did see it. though I would’ve liked to.

never did see it, though it would be nice to.

Later that year on Halloween I happened to find myself up in Monterey, CA. While walking down the street on Sunday morning, only about two blocks away from my hotel, I glanced to my right and saw a van parked alongside the curb. The van had a sign on it that read, STEPHEN KING SHOT JOHN LENNON. Well, how could I pass that up? I walked on up to the van and perused the hundred little newspaper clippings taped to its side. The driver, an aging hippie named Steven Lightfoot, climbed out of the back to explain his theory, the main thrust of which was that Ronald Reagan wanted Lennon dead in order to destroy the spirit of the sixties. This I could understand. I'm still not quite clear on how this ties into Stephen King, however. After he finished telling me that Stephen King was also John Doe #2 of Oklahoma City Bombing Fame, I asked him if he'd ever been to Torrance, CA.

"Cravens Ave.?" he said. "Sure! I was there for a long time."

"Why did you leave?"

He slammed his fist into his palm and yelled, "No one there cares about *the story*, damn it!"

"Look," I said, "sometimes I write for *Paranoia* magazine. What if I try to get the story out through them?"

He replied that a copy of his "book" (in truth a stapled pamphlet) was \$3. I gladly gave up the three bucks, at which point Lightfoot jotted down his pager number on the back of the "book" (he has no address, since he lives out of the van) and said, "Reproduce as many copies as you want. Pass 'em around. The Word needs to get out!" [Lightfoot's pager number is 408-233-4944, if you're interested in getting in contact with him.]

"I promise I'll show a copy to the editor of *Paranoia* magazine," I said as I strolled away from the van. Upon returning home I sent a copy to one of the editors of *Paranoia* in Rhode Island as well as to Jack Womack in New York. Womack, author of the novel *Random Acts of Senseless Violence*, is a connoisseur of such strangeness. He wrote back, "A friend of mine remembers seeing the S.K.S.J.L. van parked on Amsterdam at 72nd a few years ago, which is probably about as close as anyone would let him get to the Dakota, 2 blocks away." Another friend of mine remembers seeing the van at a Grateful Dead

concert in Irvine, while yet another friend has heard him calling into the Stephanie Miller show on KABC (790 AM). The man's quite ubiquitous. Sometimes I wonder if he has the divine power of bi-location.

I don't think I need to point out that this particular theory falls under the Insanity Category. However, there are indeed unanswered questions surrounding the assassination of John Lennon. In 1988 Arthur O'Connor, NYPD lieutenant of detectives, suggested to a British barrister named Fenton Bresler, "It's possible Mark [David Chapman] could have been used by somebody. I saw him the night of the murder. I studied him intensely. He looked as if he could have been programmed..." (Bresler 17). Indeed, Chapman exhibited the behavior of a hypnotized subject. In 1972 Lennon himself had told Paul Krassner, the publisher of *The Realist*, "Listen, if anything happens to Yoko and me, it was *not* an accident" (Krassner 214). That was the same time when Lennon and Ono were also funding the publication of Mae Brussell's research.

A more exhaustive examination of these issues can be found in Fenton Bresler's 1989 book *Who Shot John Lennon?* Though based on little more than circumstantial evidence, the book raises some intriguing questions that need to be addressed. A good start, of course, would be for the FBI to release its files on Lennon sans all redactions that serve to reduce the pages into a mess of blacked-out rectangles with a maximum of two words visible (if you're lucky). Until the government ceases to insist on absolute secrecy in the interest of that all-purpose bugaboo known as "national security," you can look forward to more insane theories like Lightfoot's proliferating on the internet and beyond.

## **Real Aliens Prefer Strawberry Ice Cream**

On October 14-16, 1988, a syndicated television broadcast hosted by Mike Farrell made great waves in the UFO field. Titled *UFO Cover-up? Live!*, the show purported to be a true exposé of the government's secret agreement with the alien Grays. Though the conditions of this agreement were left ambiguous, the show clearly implied that the government had given the aliens an underground base in Nevada where they were being allowed to carry out genetic experiments on human abductees. The main sources for this information were two "members of the intelligence community" who used the code names Falcon and Condor. Both claimed to be members of a secret group known as the Aviary. They were only shown behind screens and their voices were distorted in order to protect their identity. As Jacques Vallée has pointed out: "It should be fairly

obvious that the people presumably charged with the security of the projects on which Falcon, Condor, and the other members of the Aviary claimed to work, would immediately find out who they were... since the projects in question are supposed to be highly classified, hence would be known to a very small group where leaks could be traced instantly” (Vallée 43-44). Though the Aviary itself may exist (or may have existed at one time) in some form or another, it’s doubtful that the two gentlemen featured on the show were actually members of such an organization.

Among Falcon and Condor’s stranger claims was that the aliens preferred to eat ice cream and vegetables. Over twenty years later, those who saw the show seem to remember this detail most of all. *Communion* author Whitley Strieber has said, “[The show] contained a lot of credible information about aliens and UFOs and the cover-up, but it also contained the story that the aliens liked strawberry ice cream, turning the whole thing into a laughing stock. It was very cleverly done” (Strieber Interview).

The techniques used to obfuscate the few moments of serious information were indeed clever, but simple. For example, the UFO witnesses were forced to read from teleprompters, making them sound stilted and rehearsed. While the witnesses related horrifying tales of alien abduction, the sound track consisted of an upbeat Russian polka, subtly transforming their tragedy into utter slapstick. Mike Farrell’s narration was so obviously tongue-in-cheek, the viewer felt alienated from the material even more. Similarly, the painted backdrops of “a bright sunny room overlooking a garden” served as an effective anti-environment when juxtaposed with the ominous information concerning the intentions of the aliens, who were depicted as idealized Disneyesque cartoon characters (Andrews 4-5).

I think it would be safe to say that *UFO Cover-up? Live!* was a clever piece of propaganda manufactured by the intelligence community itself. By the way, this particular documentary was the first in television history to be granted the privilege of being broadcast simultaneously in both the United States and the Soviet Union. Such international cooperation seems quite suspicious, particularly during the Cold War, and only strengthens the idea that the program’s main intent was one of disinformation. As Jacques Vallée has said, “If the objective of [this] particular piece of disinformation art was to destabilize the few groups that are still seriously doing UFO research, to place the few competent investigators in a ridiculous light, and to disseminate spurious data,

then they have succeeded beyond their wildest dreams, as the disintegration of American UFO research over the last few years demonstrates” (Vallée 45).

## **NASA Mooned America!**

What a title! One can't help but admire any conspiracy researcher who could cook up a title as colorful as that. Ralph René, a former member of Mensa who prefers to be known only by his last name for some reason, was forced to self-publish his book in 1992 after Victoria House Press in New York threatened to rewrite it entirely. Upon receiving *NASA Mooned America!* in the mail, I was immediately struck by the fact that it was bound in black electrical tape. Most people would interpret this as a bad sign, but not me. Anyone who's so committed to his research that he'll resort to binding his book in electrical tape is clearly of interest.

Over the course of 176 pages, René attempts to prove that NASA faked every one of its moon landings in a warehouse near Mercury, Nevada, a theory first proposed in Bill Kaysing's 1981 book *We Never Went To the Moon*. (Kaysing claims that Peter Hyams' 1978 film *Capricorn One* was based on his research. By the way, if you want to get really conspiratorial, consider the fact that *Capricorn One* stars none other than O.J. Simpson.) René expands on Kaysing's original proposal by analyzing original NASA photos, comparing contradictory statements by the Apollo astronauts (or “astro-nots,” as René likes to say), and deconstructing the unchallenged assumptions concerning human survival in space. René raises many intriguing questions. How did the Moon Rover fit onto the Lander? Why are there no stars visible in any of the NASA photographs of the Moon? Why wasn't color footage used during the 1969 landing? How did the astronauts withstand the deadly radiation in the Van Allen belt?

Most of René's questions have simple answers, and I would refer the interested reader to Michael Bara's article “Who Mourns For Apollo?” at <http://www.lunaranomalies.com/fake-moon.htm> for analysis far more in-depth than any I can offer here. René's technical acuity is far from unassailable. At one point he seems incapable of distinguishing between “shadows” and “silhouettes,” for example. However, that doesn't mean the entire book is worthless. Far from it. Though in my opinion René fails to prove his central thesis, he *does indeed* prove that NASA fakes photographs. His analysis of two photographs taken from Michael Collins' 1974 book *Carrying the Fire* proves that the July 1966 photograph (#66-40127) of Michael Collins' space-walk was

derived from a picture of Collins in a Zero-G airplane; the original figure has clearly been flopped over, reduced in size, and superimposed onto a black background. René's analysis of NASA's 4/22/72 photo (AS16-107-17446), depicting Charles Duke and the Moon Rover during the Apollo 16 mission, is certainly intriguing. Even my most skeptical friends have been dumbfounded by the fact that the Rover's antenna clearly overlaps the cross-hairs on the photo. I'd like to meet the professional photographer who can explain that one away.

Because NASA fakes photographs, one can't immediately leap to the conclusion that we never went to the Moon. I can imagine a number of reasons for altering NASA photos, one of them being to remove evidence of alien artifacts that certain NASA officials would prefer to keep from profane eyes like yours and mine. Richard Hoagland, former advisor to both NASA and Walter Cronkite, insists that the famous photo of Alan Shepard hitting a golf ball on the Moon is manufactured (8/20/97 Interview). This photo depicts Shepard and Ed Mitchell standing side by side, despite the fact that there were only two cameras taken along on the Apollo 14 moon landing—both of them strapped to the chests of Shepard and Mitchell. This faked photo can be found in the center of Shepard's 1994 book *Moon Shot* .

Another valid point examined in René's book is the mystery surrounding the deaths of Virgil Grissom, Roger Chaffee, and Ed White. Grissom was becoming increasingly critical of NASA just prior to his "accident." According to Mike Gray in his book *Angle of Attack* , Grissom told his wife Betty, "If there is a serious accident in the space program, it's likely to be me" (218). Grissom and his two companions died on January 27, 1967 when a fire broke out in the Apollo spacecraft they were testing on Pad 34 at Cape Kennedy. As René says, "...I cannot understand why Grissom et al entered that capsule in the first place if they knew it was to be pressurized with oxygen over 14.7 psi.... Apparently not one of them complained. Didn't anyone know about Calorimeter Bombs? Didn't NASA send them copies of the fire reports? Or maybe no one told them they were jacking up the pressure!" (47-48)

Even more suspicious is the fact that government agents raided Virgil Grissom's house before anyone even knew about the fire, confiscated his personal diary, and never returned it to his widow. As if that wasn't enough, on the morning of the fire the outward opening hatch of the capsule was changed to a hatch that opened *inward* . Of course, the pressure created by the fire prevented this "new, improved" hatch from being opened from either the inside or the outside.



René believes Grissom was the main target of the assassination, and apparently Grissom's widow agrees. On May 14, 1997, she openly accused NASA of a cover-up in relation to her husband's death (5/16/97 Hoagland Interview). On February 11, 1999, the Associated Press reported that Grissom's son, Scott Grissom, had alleged, "My father's death was no accident. He was murdered." Furthermore, a NASA investigator, Clark MacDonald of McDonnell-Douglas, accused the agency of covering up the real cause of the fire by destroying his original report, along with numerous taped interviews, from thirty-one years before.

René strikes me as a sincere researcher attempting to find the truth. I don't believe he's Insane, a Disinformation Specialist, or a Satirist. I suspect the bulk of his book falls under the category of Misinformation. However, that doesn't mean it isn't worth studying. There's more than just one acorn worth uncovering here.

## **The Elders of Zion and Sha Na Na**

A typical entry in the ever-expanding genre known as "satirical" conspiracy theories is one that presents itself as a legitimate journalistic exposé attempting to counteract a small group of privileged scoundrels who are committing various forms of skullduggery against the masses. This genre could very well date back to *Dialogue in Hell between Machiavelli and Montesquieu* by Maurice Joly, a rare book published in France in 1865. Dialogue was plagiarized in the early twentieth century by unknown authors and refashioned into the infamous *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* —which makes its first appearance as an appendix in a 1905 book bearing the unwieldy title *The Big in the Small, and Antichrist as a Near Political Possibility; Notes of an Orthodox Person* by Sergei A. Nilus (Berlet 248). This appendix was later published in a separate volume and used by the Nazis as a means of stirring up anti-Semitism in Germany, Britain, and the United States. Even though *Protocols* itself may not have been intended as a satire, its original source certainly was.

At roughly the same time that *Protocols* made its debut, Léo Taxil published *Les Mysteres de la Franc-Maçonnerie* in which he wove an elaborate tall tale involving devil-worshipping Freemasons operating in secret in modern day France. It became quite popular, as popular as Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* is today, despite the fact that the contents of the book were entirely concocted by the author. Eventually, Taxil revealed the entire hoax during a public lecture at

the Hall of the Geographic Society in Paris before a disappointed audience of devout Catholic priests eager to hear more horror stories about female Freemasons engaging in lewd sex acts with Baphomet. Not only did Taxil describe his twelve-year-long prank as “the most fantastic hoax of modern times,” but he also commented, “It is a bit unusual indeed, that we managed to get our staggering stories swallowed in our 19th century.” If he were alive today, Taxil would no doubt be surprised to learn that his hoax is still being quoted as fact by right-wing Christians even at the dawn of the twenty-first century. (Taxil’s confession was originally published in a French newspaper called *Le Frondeur* on April 25, 1897. An English translation of the speech can be viewed at [www.altreligion.about.com/library/texts/bl\\_confessiontaxil.htm](http://www.altreligion.about.com/library/texts/bl_confessiontaxil.htm).)

A more recent entry in this genre includes Leonard Lewin’s *Report From Iron Mountain* (Dial Press, 1967). This book purports to be the minutes of a group called Iron Mountain 15, a high level government task force. Concluding that the world economy could only “suffer” from peace, the group decides to convene for the purpose of thinking up methods of “invisible warfare” that can stimulate the economy as sufficiently as traditional warfare. Among several possibilities, the committee suggests faking an invasion from outer space. Though the author himself admitted the book was intended to be a satire, Col. L. Fletcher Prouty (former advisor to President Kennedy) said, “But the people at the Hudson Institute, the Pentagon, and the government contractors were talking like this in those days. So it wasn’t really exaggerated enough to be satire. I’d always believed it to be leaked information” (Bowart Chp. 38, p. 3).

In his 1992 book *JFK: The CIA, Vietnam and the Plot to Assassinate John F. Kennedy*, Col. Prouty wrote:

During the Kennedy years, people within the government and their close associates in academia and industry discussed frequently and quite seriously many of the major questions phrased by Leonard Lewin in *Report From Iron Mountain*. I had been assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense before the Kennedy election and was there when the McNamara team of “Whiz Kids” arrived. Never before had so many brilliant young civilians with so many Ph.D.s worked in that office. It was out of the mouths of this group that I heard so frequently and precisely the ideas that Lewin recounts in his “novel.” (287-88)

Which demonstrates that just because something is satirical doesn't necessarily mean it's not true.

By the way, a personal favorite among even more recent examples of this genre appeared in *Paranoia* #9. John Glenn and A.S. Hamrah co-wrote an article that begins with the provocative sentence, "Doesn't it seem, well, odd to you that so many retired counter-culturites claim to have been at Woodstock, yet a) there just wouldn't have been room there for all of them, and b) when you ask around yourself, you can't find anyone who was really there?" Glenn and Hamrah's thesis is that Woodstock was faked by the CIA. They raise some interesting questions ("Does it strike you as suspicious that although Otis Redding supposedly performed at Woodstock, he *died* in 1967?"), almost all of them complete jabberwocky. I think it's safe to assume that this article falls under the category of Satire, and comes heartily recommended to those interested in uncovering the "typically ham-fisted intelligence community conspiracy" behind the "grotesque miscalculation that was Sha Na Na" (54).

## **Giant Owls, Monkey Viruses, Magic Bullets, and Other Unconventional Flying Objects**

I've saved the best for last. I would definitely be remiss—as remiss as Rich Cohen was in his *Vanity Fair* article—if I ended this chapter without highlighting some of the legitimate researchers of both the past and the present. I've already mentioned Dr. Alan Cantwell, for example. If one reads his book *AIDS and the Doctors of Death* in tandem with *Emerging Viruses* by Dr. Leonard Horowitz, *Dr. Mary's Monkey* by Edward Haslam, and *AIDS Inc.* by journalist Jon Rappoport, one will come away with a pretty clear picture of how the AIDS virus was created, who developed it, who released it and why. No "theory" here, just facts.

If one reads the 1978 book *The Assassination of Robert Kennedy* by William Turner and Jonn Christian, one will realize that Sirhan Sirhan could not have been responsible for any of the wounds suffered by Senator Kennedy that fateful summer night in 1968. This is a classic in its field, written by an FBI agent and a professional newsman, and deserves to be more widely known among those interested in the hidden agendas guiding American history from behind the scenes. The bullets that murdered John F. Kennedy's younger brother did not come from Sirhan Sirhan's gun; in fact, the probable identity of the real gunman

can be found within the pages of this very book. No “theory” here, just facts.

In *America’s Secret Establishment* by Stanford Economics professor Antony Sutton, one will learn that Yale University’s elite Skull & Bones is not just a “debating society,” the quaint description used in a recent *Los Angeles Times* report (published prominently on the front page of the 3-23-04 Calendar section) titled “What Binds Bush, Kerry,” in which “investigative journalist” Robin Abcarian bends over backwards to leave the reader with the impression that the Yale secret society Skull & Bones is nothing more than a “debating society where members of the senior class... get together and discuss important topics of the day.” In case you forgot, back in 2004 both major Presidential candidates were members of this infamous secret society, so it would behoove every American to read Antony Sutton’s book and study it closely. Hardcore facts abound in this book, and Sutton’s theories are clearly labeled as such.

On a related note, check out Alex Jones’ 2000 documentary *Dark Secrets Inside Bohemian Grove*, an exposé of more secret society shenanigans among the political elite. You want to know what politicians like Henry Kissinger and George Bush are up to in their off-hours? Apparently they get dressed up in crimson robes, worship a 45-foot stone owl (voiced by the previously mentioned Walter Cronkite), and sacrifice babies in “effigy” in a high-security gorge near Sacramento in Northern California. No “theory” here, for the whole ritual was covertly caught on videotape by Jones. If you can get past the “What I Did On My Summer Vacation” production values and the occasional misinterpretation of the events depicted here (i.e., the typically Christian tendency to confuse paganism with Satanism), you will come away with a number of “illuminating” sights, indeed. Forget Kubrick’s tepid fantasies in *Eyes Wide Shut*; here are the real facts. (For more information, see [www.infowars.com](http://www.infowars.com).)

Some people live for presidential campaigns, not unlike wrestling fans or soap opera addicts, waiting on the edge of their seats for the next melodramatic plot twist to unfold. As with professional wrestling and daytime soap operas, however, these plot twists may not be quite as extemporaneous as the most rabid fans would prefer to believe. Fortunately, as any reader of conspiracy ‘zines knows only too well, the truth is often much stranger than such ephemeral fictions. The life of any hardcore political junkie will remain unfulfilled until he or she reads *Votescam: The Stealing of America* by James and Kenneth Collier, a pair of muckrakers (in the best sense of that word) who literally dedicated their lives to uncovering the truth behind the rampant manipulation of elections in the

United States. Anyone who read this book when it was initially published in 1992 was not at all surprised when the curious debacle known as the 2000 Presidential elections came apart at the seams in Dade County, Florida. One would be hard pressed to choose a better locale for the hi-jacking of a country if one were writing the scenario as a screenplay (presupposing, of course, that the elections themselves were *not* a screenplay). Upon finishing this book, one will realize how prophetic the Collier brothers truly were. The facts, as laid out in this overlooked work of political science, are incontrovertible.

Finally, no discussion of conspiracies would be complete without some mention of UFOs. The best overview of this vast and complex subject remains *Above Top Secret* by journalist Timothy Good. However, the skeptics out there would be more thoroughly challenged by *Unconventional Flying Objects* written by Paul Hill, a well-respected NASA scientist who spent twenty-five years acting as “an unofficial clearing house at NASA, collecting and analyzing sightings’ reports for physical properties, propulsion possibilities, dynamics, etc.” He took special precautions to preserve this study for posthumous publication. If you have friends who think no scientific evidence for the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs exists, I suggest you show them this book. They will be hard pressed to dismiss this scientific study as mere “theory.”

## **Conclusion: From the Sublime to the Absurd**

Regretfully, I didn’t get around to those special theories that mix various categories together: for example, the theory that AIDS comes from Bigfoot (Insanity & Misinformation); or Peter Moon’s theory—which can be found in his 1997 book *The Black Sun* —that Mark Hamill of *Star Wars* fame is the surgically-altered progeny of Project Paperclip Nazi scientists involved with covert time travel experiments on Long Island (Insanity, Disinformation, Misinformation, and Satire).

In the end, the important point to remember is this: In the modern day digital environment truth is as malleable as viscous liquid. You can’t make up anything that won’t come true a few minutes later. A few years ago, during the news coverage of the JFK Jr. plane crash tragedy, a hoaxer posing as a captain in the Coast Guard called into Dan Rather’s program and claimed that sections of JFK’s private plane had been recovered from the ocean. When Dan Rather realized he’d been had, he grew quite indignant and apologized to the audience profusely. Fifteen minutes later, the real captain called in and reported the same

information! The *phony* captain had scooped the *real* captain with an *imaginary* story! As the late comic book writer Steve Gerber once said, “The world has become parasatirical.”

According to media ecologist Robert Dobbs, “...in software/wetware conditions we just have to *think* about something collectively and it’s done” (Interview). If so, the more imaginative conspiracy theorists might do well to be a bit more careful with the apocalyptic scenarios they tend to promote. Though some of these may be illusory today, our collective obsession with them might evoke them into being tomorrow.

“What’s coming at you is coming from you.”

—Meatball Fulton

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<sup>1</sup>Indeed, she did so in the pages of Paul Krassner's underground magazine *The Realist*.

## PART TWO

# POP CULTURE AS MIND CONTROL, MIND CO NTROL AS POP CULTURE